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REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 11 and 18 are amended and Claims 5 and 10 are cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-20, as amended, remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

In the Office Action dated July 14, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent No. 6,290,517 issued to Anderson in view of the U.S. Patent No. 5,658,152 issued to Selker. Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner stated that Anderson discloses an electronic housing device comprising a housing 108 for enclosing electronics and having an opening 118 formed therein; a first electrical connector 114 supported on said housing and being accessible; an extendable housing portion 116 mounted in said opening and being selectively moveable into and out of said housing; and a second electrical connector 114' mounted on said extendable housing portion, said second electrical connector being accessible when said extendable housing portion is extended out of said housing and not being accessible when said extendable housing portion is retracted into said housing (see figures 3 and 4). The Examiner admitted that Anderson does not show the line cord.

The Examiner stated that Selker discloses a device including the line cord 26. It is the Examiner's opinion that at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to include a line cord on the Anderson device as taught in Selker.

Per Claim 10, the Examiner stated that Anderson discloses at least one hinge connecting said extendable housing portion to said housing for swinging said extensible housing portion into and out of said opening.

The Examiner objected to Claims 5, 14, and 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant cancelled Claim 10 and incorporated the subject matter of cancelled Claim 5 into Claim 1. In view of the Examiner's statement of allowability, Applicant believes that amended Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are allowable.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent No. 5,899,761 issued to Crane et al. ("Crane") in view of the U.S. Patent No. 2,196,842 issued to Strazzabosco. Regarding Claim 1,

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the Examiner stated that Crane discloses an electronic housing device comprising a housing for enclosing electronics, a line cord 20 attached at one end to said housing and having an opposite end adapted to be connected to a source of electrical power; a first electrical connector 42 supported on said housing and being accessible. The Examiner admitted that Crane does not disclose an extendable housing.

The Examiner stated that Strazzabosco discloses an extendable housing portion 44 mounted in an opening and being selectively moveable into and out of a housing (12, 13) and a second electrical connector mounted on said extendable housing portion, said second electrical connector being accessible when said extendable housing portion is extended out of said housing and not being accessible when said extendable housing portion is retracted into said housing. According to the Examiner, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to replace the Crane sockets 66 with retractable sockets as taught in Strazzabosco.

Regarding Claims 2, 3, and 4, the Examiner stated that Strazzabosco discloses two prong sockets and Crane discloses standard three prong sockets. According to the Examiner at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to make the retractable outlets (as taught by Strazzabosco) standard three prong outlets (hot, neutral, ground) as taught in Crane.

Per Claim 6, the Examiner stated that Strazzabosco discloses stops 34.

Per Claim 8, the Examiner stated that said first electrical connector is mounted on an exposed end of said extendable housing portion.

Per Claim 9, the Examiner stated that said Crane line cord, said first electrical connector and said second electrical connector are connected to a surge protection device.

In view of the Examiner's statement of allowability, Applicant believes that amended Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are allowable.

The Examiner rejected Claims 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, and 19 for the reasons pertaining to Claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 9.

Applicant does not believe that there is any suggestion or teaching in either Crane or Strazzabosco that the Crane outlet 66 can be replaced by the Strazzabosco multiple socket member 22. Such a substitution would require the socket member to slide upwardly and downwardly and there is no mechanism to maintain the socket member 22 in the extended position.

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Furthermore, Applicant amended Claims 11 and 18 to define the extendable housing portion as being extensible in a horizontal direction with the at least one additional electrical being mounted in a top surface of the housing portion. Neither of these features are shown in the cited references.

The Examiner rejected Claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane in view of Strazzabosco as in Claims 1 and 11 in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,478,587 issued to Sharples. The Examiner admitted that Strazzabosco does not disclose springs. The Examiner stated that Sharples discloses a spring mechanism 96 to urge an extendable housing outward. According to the Examiner at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to include a spring mechanism to urge the extendable housing out, as taught in Sharples.

Claims 7 and 16 have been discussed above in the context of independent Claims 1 and 11 respectively.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicant believes that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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